

BUDGET WEEK

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Majority Caucus

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Volume 1, No. 16

Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

4 December 2001

Week of 4 December 2001

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) **Recognizing Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's success in promoting democracy and its continuing contribution to United States national interests** (H.Con.Res. 242).



This resolution has no budgetary implications.

2) **George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center Designation Act** (H.R. 3348).



This bill has no budgetary implications.

3) **Hunger to Harvest Resolution: A Decade of Concern for Africa** (H.Con.Res. 102).



This resolution has no budgetary implications.

4) **Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001** (S. 494).



This bill would support a transition to democracy and promote economic recovery in Zimbabwe through a set of incentives and sanctions. This bill does not increase direct spending (spending not subject to annual appropriations) or reduce revenue.

5) **Know Your Caller Act of 2001** (H.R. 90).

This bill prohibits telephone solicitors from purposefully blocking their names, phone numbers, and other identifying information from appearing on caller identification systems. It establishes a private right of action in state courts to punish violations. The Federal Communications Commission [FCC] will spend less than \$500,000 a year to implement H.R. 90, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimates that implementation of H.R. 90 would increase the forfeiture penalties (a form of Government receipts) collected by the FCC by about \$1 million annually. Hence this bill will neither increase net direct spending. Nor will it cause a decrease in revenue.



6) **Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding tuberous sclerosis** (H.Con.Res. 25).



This bill has no budgetary implications.

7) **National Hansen's Disease Programs Center Designation Act** (H.R. 2441).



This bill has no budgetary implications.

8) **Recognizing the important contributions of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** (H.Con.Res. 277).



This resolution has no budgetary implications.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to express support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the House Committee on the Budget. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

9) ***Honoring Maureen Reagan on the occasion of her death and expressing condolences to her family, including her husband Dennis Revell and her daughter Rita Revell*** (As Amended) (H.J.Res. 60).



This resolution has no budgetary implications.

10) ***The Administrative Simplification Compliance Act*** (H.R. 3323).

Under current law, certain administrative simplification processes, facilitating electronic transactions between health plans and health care providers, are scheduled to go into effect in October 2002. This bill would require health plans and providers to either meet the current compliance deadline or demonstrate their plans for achieving compliance by October 2003. The bill has not been scored by CBO. Nevertheless, it is not expected that the bill would increase direct spending or decrease revenue.

11) ***The Medicare Regulatory and Contracting Reform Act of 2001*** (H.R. 3391).



This bill addresses four primary areas in the Medicare Program, as follows: 1) a regulatory reform section, which seeks to rationalize and simplify the promulgation of Medicare regulations; 2) a contracting reform section that includes provisions to permit the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to competitively contract with Medicare contractors; 3) an education and outreach section containing provisions to better educate providers and beneficiaries about the Medicare Program; and 4) an appeals and recovery section that would reform the Medicare claims appeals and recovery processes. This bill will not increase direct spending or cause a decrease in revenue.

12) ***Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Restructuring Act of 2001*** (H.R. 2305).



This bill requires the Director of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia [DC], the Director of the DC Pretrial Services Agency, the U.S. Attorney for DC, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, and the Chair of the U.S. Parole Commission to serve on the DC Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

13) ***Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery Designation Act.***



This bill has no budget implication.

14) ***To amend title 39, United States Code, with respect to "cooperative mailings"*** (H.R. 1169).



This bill provides that nonprofit postage rates will apply to cooperative mailings sent by, or on behalf of, an organization that 1) is authorized to mail at nonprofit postage rates, and 2) also has a business relationship with an entity not authorized to do so, if those rates would apply in the case of identical mail matter sent by an authorized organization without such a relationship. It appears this bill may decrease postal revenue (CBO has not prepared an estimate of this bill); but because the Postal Service is off-budget, and because there will be no on-budget increase in direct spending or decrease in on-budget revenue, this bill is not inconsistent with the budget resolution and does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.

15) ***Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Veterans Day should continue to be observed on November 11 and separate from any other Federal holiday or day for Federal elections or national observances*** (H.Res. 298).



This resolution has no budget implications.

16) ***Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Visitor Center Act*** (H.R. 3322).




This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

17) ***Fern Lake Conservation and Recreation Act of 2001*** (H.R. 2238).



This bill authorizes the National Park Service to acquire – by donation, purchase, or exchange – lands that contain Fern Lake and its surrounding watershed in Bell County, KY, and Claiborne County, TN. The bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

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18) ***To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater within and outside of the service area of the Lakehaven Utility District, Washington*** (H.R. 2115). 

This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of, and land acquisition for, a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater, including degraded ground waters, within and outside of the service area of Lakehaven Utility District, Washington. This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

19) ***To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the reporting requirements relating to higher education tuition and related expenses*** (H.R. 3346). 

This bill does not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

20) ***Native American Small Business Development Act*** (As Amended) (H.R. 2538). 

This bill amends the Small Business Act to authorize a small business development center in an eligible State to apply for an additional Small Business Administration grant. The additional grant is to be used solely for specified services to assist with outreach, development, and enhancement on Indian lands of small business startups and expansions owned by Indian tribe members, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians (members and natives). The bill will not increase direct spending or reduce revenue.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: ***Bipartisan Trade Promotion Act of Fiscal Year 2001*** (H.R. 3005). 

Committee: Ways and Means

Summary: This bill gives authority to the President to enter into trade agreements with foreign countries regarding tariff and nontariff barriers. Under the bill, a trade agreement may be entered into only if it makes progress in meeting overall and principal trade negotiating objectives, and the President satisfies certain notification and consultation requirements. Authority provided under the bill is extended to agreements entered into before 1 June 2005. An extension through 1 June 2007 is to be permitted unless Congress passes a resolution of disapproval.

Budget Act: Because this legislation only provides authority to the President to enter into subsequent trade agreements – which then would require congressional action – it does not itself create any new spending authority, and does not raise revenue implications. Any budgetary effects of a trade agreement would be scored against the implementing legislation considered pursuant to such an agreement. This legislation does not violate the provisions of the Budget Act, nor does it have any pay-as-you-go implications.

ON THE HORIZON

[Note: The conference reports below do not appear on the schedule, but could be brought up at any time.]

Bill: ***Conference Report on District of Columbia Appropriations***

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: The Appropriations Committee had not released the CBO estimate of this bill as of the preparation of this Budget Week summary.

Budget Act: Because the CBO estimate is not available, it has not been determined whether the conference report on this appropriations bill is within the applicable 302(b) allocation.

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Bill: *Conference Report on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations*

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: The Appropriations Committee had not released CBO estimate of this bill as of the preparation of this Budget Week summary.

Budget Act: Because the CBO estimate is not available, it has not been determined whether this appropriations bill is within the applicable 302(b) allocation.